The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.—Bible.

WHOLE NO. 940. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1929. FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 19, NO. 5.

A. F. of L. Executive Dodges Lawyers' Injunction Trap

"Trade unions would be free from legal entanglements," declared President Green in opposing a proposal by an American Bar Association committee that arbitration agreements between employers and workers be enforceable by courts.

The lawyers' proposal appears innocent, but it can not stand analysis. To say that a wage arbitration award is identical to arbitration of an interpretation of a contract between two business men is to revive the discarded theory that labor is a commodity.

Wage awards affect human liberty and human welfare. Business awards relate to corporations or companies and have no direct connection with the individual.

An arbitration award between two business men never interferes with the personal liberty of these business men, but such a situation is highly probable in the case of workers.

Trade unions are not asking for the right to violate an arbitration award. The unions created the present arbitration sentiment.

Arbitrators have been known to wander far afield in their decisions, and it is not too much to say that this inclination would be strengthened if courts were empowered to enforce the award and this type of arbitrator knew workers were helpless.

Such an award, under the proposed law, would be enforced by equity courts, as a law court can not compel workers to labor against their will.

When an equity court is given jurisdiction the worker is helpless. The court is refuse to accept things at their face value. ruled by his conscience. He has a free hand to exploit his prejudices and his economic views.

An equity judge can only be reached through impeachment. This is out of the question as it is impossible to prove that the court's conscience is not pure.

If equity courts are empowered to enforce arbitration awards, the bars are thrown down for judge-controlled unions.

The lawyers' proposal will be dressed up in a garb that is pleasing to the eye, but behind the scenes loom equity judges who await a legislative order that will enlarge their jurisdiction over workers.

Such a proposal can be expected from lawyers, but President Green has presented the views of practical trade unionists who have been brought about by putting more work on the employes than they can do," the committee stated. "The 'stretch out' system is not brought into play by the introduction of any improved type of machinery—the strikes, we find, are in no sense a rebellion against improved textile machinery."

The statement, referring to the 'stretch out' system, which has been given by the workers in the South Carolina mills as the reason for their walk-out, says it is the employe who 'does the stretching.' The committee cited one instance where a force doing a certain amount of work was reduced by a third or more with no increase in pay, decreases in some cases or slight raises not proportionate with the increased work.

On instance given was a weaver who operated 24 looms for $18.91 a week and was given 114 looms to care for at a salary of $23 a week.

Rail Managers Have Problem; Labor Wants Efficiency Share

New York, April 13.—Recent developments on the nation's railroads have awakened managers to the fact that they still have a labor problem.

The managers were first jarred by the recent strike vote of members of the four brotherhoods on the Texas & Pacific Railroad.

This railroad is moving its terminals, and employes' homes bought on the partial payment plan are a loss. The employes demand remuneration, and the strike vote resulted in the creation of an emergency board by President Hoover to consider the matter.

This situation is worrying rail managers because they are entering an era of railroad consolidation that will be marked by restriction of terminals and a duplication of the Texas & Pacific controversy.

At a recent meeting of brotherhood members in Boston, officials declared that workers should share in improved transportation methods and should not be placed on the street. A demand was made for the six-hour work day. Speakers challenged Colonel Winslow, chairman of the United States Mediation Board, who said that the day of strikes has passed. "We will never surrender our right to strike," said Assistant President Shea of the Brotherhood of Firemen and Enginemen.

The latest shock to rail managers is a resolution adopted by the Railroad Labor Executives' Association at Cleveland for the six-hour day and five-day week and for relief of employes from undue burdens caused by economy, efficiency or consolidations of railways.

These incidents have convinced the rail managers that employes are awake to changed conditions.

VICIOUS LABOR BILL VETOED BY GOVERNOR

Albany, N. Y., April 13.—Governor Roosevelt vetoed the McKay bill that was rushed through the State Legislature in its closing hours.

The bill would legalize physical examination of workmen and practically destroy the workmen's compensation law. President Green of the A. F. of L. forwarded a strong protest against the bill to Governor Roosevelt. Similar action was taken by organized labor in this State and also by the State Department of Labor.

In rejecting the measure the governor characterized the closing days of the legislature as an "unintelligent riot." He said the bill is "a vicious measure."

IRON WORKERS IDLE; BIG OUTPUT BLAMED

Hibbing, Minn., April 13.—Employment on the iron ore range dropped 1,000 a year the last 10 years, because of improved production processes.

Last year there were 8,022 workers engaged in mining in this county, against a former employment of 18,000.

The average wage is $4.20 a day, but workers are employed but 150 days a year.

These figures are included in a pamphlet issued by the Hibbing Chamber of Commerce. The business men oppose efforts of mining companies to have the legislature restrict tax limitations of iron ore values.

More than 2,000 Hibbing men were unemployed during the past winter and the mining companies resisted efforts to provide employment by increased taxation.

The leading iron ore corporation is the Oliver Mining Company, a unit of the steel trust. The iron ore magnates claim that the slump in this industry is due to over-taxation, but this is denied by the Chamber of Commerce pamphlet. "The slump," it is stated, "is due to over-production capacity." The price of ore advanced and thousands of workers are on the streets because of increased efficiency. The mining companies fight every attempt to have wages keep pace the expense of a condition that has brought them record profits.

TOO MUCH SCIENCE HAS LITTLE VALUE

Philadelphia, April 13.—"It is possible to over-organize scientific research," said Sir Oliver Lodge in a letter to the American Philosophical Society.

Other scientists questioned the value of present-day waves of smattering "scientific workers" that have outrun the advance in ethics.

Dr. Carl Barus of Brown University said: "It is my misfortune that to teach the people at large more science will not do more harm than good. Science itself is the arts of war, of aggression, of exploitation, of sabotage, quite as much as to the arts of peace."

Dr. Barus said that the outstanding needs of present-day America were "better civil law, clearer politics, less obstinate credulity, bigotry and quackery, and a more urgent endeavor to lift the underdog out of his misery and into a life worth living."

Dr. Henry Norris Russell, director of Princeton observatory, discredited "What is the world's intellectual need?" He said there are "as many opinions as men."

FLORIDA WAGE WOMEN NEED TRADE UNIONS

Washington, April 13.—Nearly 50 per cent of the wage working women in Florida labor more than 10 hours a day, according to the United States Women's Bureau.

About 25 per cent of the laundry workers have a 10-hour day or more, as have a third of the women in wooden box factories, a fifth of those in cigar factories and almost a fifth of those in certain of the food industries.

Negro women generally work longer than those of white women; more than half of those reporting work 54 or more hours a week.

The highest wage for white women in department stores, where the median (half the women earning less and half earning more) was $18.10 a week. The lowest figure for white women was in certain of the food products, $9.55. Earnings of Negro women as measured by medians were less than half those of white women, $6.65 being the median for the 1,266 workers reported.

AUTOMATIC STOKER ON RAILWAY ENGINE

Washington, April 13.—The President Pierce, a Baltimore & Ohio railroad engine, traveled 4,350 miles on coal fed to fire box by a mechanical stoker. The record included a continuous journey from this city to Chicago, a distance of 794 miles. Four engines are usually required in successive relays to make this run.

UNREST IN SOUTH SPREADS

Developments in the South contradict the claim that northern capitalists should invest in that section because of "favorable" labor laws and "contented and cheap labor."

The usual thuggery is resorted to in an effort to check unrest, but this method will fail. It must be superseded by organization of labor.

Injunctions and deportation of trade union representatives can not silence protest by "sweated" workers who are forced to labor long hours for low wages.

The present turmoil is in the textile industry, where workers are broken by tasks that are piled on them by "efficiency" experts.

A committee appointed by the South Carolina legislature to investigate textile conditions blames employers for strikes that are sweeping that State. The legislators cite instances where workers are "sweated." One of these instances show that a weaver operated 24 looms for $18.91 a week and was forced to operate 114 looms for $23 a week. Employers have trebled the task of workers, while wages are reduced.

This speeding up is beyond human endurance and the widespread revolt is logical.

The "contented, low-wage worker" in the South does not exist. They are organizing and employers must realize the new day.

Whether this change is accepted voluntarily or under compulsion is for these employers to decide.

"BRAIN" and "HAND" LABOR

Where is the distinction between brain and hand labor, so often referred to by unthinking persons?

Are hands useless to the surgeon, the architect, artist, sculptor or office man?

Is brains unnecessary to the man in overalls, be he operating a machine, sailing a ship or building a fence?

Labor is impossible without co-ordination of brain and hand. While the degree of co-ordination may vary, the principle remains.

The attempt to set so-called "brain" labor apart from so-called "hand" labor is an echo of by-gone days when work was considered degrading.

The term "brain" labor appears to be an apology in an age that exalts all labor, while the term "hand" labor assumes that brain power is not needed where hands are soiled.

FAKE TEXTILE UNION APPEALS FOR MONEY

New York, April 13.—The National Textile Workers' Union, a fake labor organization controlled by Communists, is appealing to the regular trade union movement for funds.

The legitimate United Textile Workers is organizing the South and the "reds," as usual, appear on the scene. Their unvarying rule in these cases is "to pass the hat," and they are asking for funds from the men and women whose organization they would destroy.

The National Textile Workers' Union is controlled by the same crowd of Communists who organize a "paper" union wherever there is industrial unrest. This "union" serves their panhandling purposes and is an excuse to continue revolutionary propaganda.

Every dollar contributed to this fake "union" will aid it in its fight against organized labor and increase the difficulties of organizing the South.

FRANK BUCKLAND DEAD

Washington, April 13.—Frank Buckland, for four years vice president International Union of Operating Engineers, died in a local hospital in this city, following an operation. He was 54. His home was in Denver, where he had lived for 20 years. Burial was at Albion, N. Y., and was attended by President Arthur Huddell and other officials of the engineers' international.

JAMES VAHEY PASSES ON

Boston, April 13.—James H. Vahey, long-time attorney for the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of America, died in this city.

He was associated with many noted labor cases, both in courts and before arbitration boards.

HIGH COURT CHECKS CONTRACT BREAKERS

Washington, April 13.—The United States Supreme Court, by a 6 to 3 vote, ruled that the 7-cent fare plea of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company was outside the court's jurisdiction. The company was told to apply to New York State courts.

The company operates the subway lines that are owned by the city. A 5-cent-fare contract has long been in operation between the two parties, and this the company would abrogate on the plea of "confiscation." It failed to secure relief from local authorities and carried its case to the Supreme Court. The extra 2 cents would cost patrons $23,000,000 a year.

The effect of the decision is to send the Interborough for relief back to the State Supreme Court, where the city and the Transit Commission have three suits pending for an injunction restraining the Interborough from attempting to enforce a fare higher than the 5-cent fare stipulated in the dual subway contracts.

The court's decision will strengthen popular resentment against the contract-breaking corporation, whose record for anti-union activity is well known.

The Interborough operates a company "union" and recently attempted to enjoin President Green of the A. F. of L. and the entire labor union movement from even speaking to an employe.

RIGHTS ARE DENIED BY FEDERAL BOARDS

Springfield, Mass., April 13.—The Federal Government, through commissions and boards, is encroaching upon the rights of states and private citizens, said General James G. Harbord, president of Radio Corporation of America, in a speech to business men in this city.

This encroachment is "not only not contemplated but actually forbidden by the Constitution," said the speaker.

General Harbord said the logical result of commissions in the end of state sovereignty and all power of government, police and otherwise, centralized in the Federal Government.

"This path, once entered, leads only to state standardization of men and morals, and to the most confirmed grievances recited against George III in the Declaration of Independence was that 'he has created a multitude of new offices and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people and eat of our substance.'"

COMMUNISTS OUSTED

Toronto, Ontario, April 13.—Avowed Communists were ousted as delegates to the Toronto Trades and Labor Council. One revolutionist, during the debate, acknowledged that the Communist Party is attempting to organize workers in dual unions.

The council's action followed protests by local affiliates against the "reds'" disruptive tactics.

EMPLOYERS BLAMED BY STATE PROBERS

Columbia, S. C., April 13.—A State legislative committee placed the blame for textile strikes in this State on employers who are attempting to "sweat" workers.

The committee, appointed to investigate textile conditions, was headed by Dowell E. Patterson, member of the State House of Representatives and president of the South Carolina Federation of Labor.

"We find that the whole trouble in the textile areas where strikes have occurred has been brought about by putting more work on the employes than they can do," the committee stated. "The 'stretch out' system is not brought into play by the introduction of any improved type of machinery—the strikes, we find, are in no sense a rebellion against improved textile machinery."

The statement, referring to the 'stretch out' system, which has been given by the workers in the South Carolina mills as the reason for their walk-out, says it is the employe who 'does the stretching.' The committee cited one instance where a force doing a certain amount of work was reduced by a third or more with no increase in pay, decreases in some cases or slight raises not proportionate with the increased work.

One instance given was a weaver who operated 24 looms for $18.91 a week and was given 114 looms to care for at a salary of $23 a week.

EDWARD J. M'GIVERN DIES IN WASHINGTON

Washington, April 13.—Edward J. McGivern, 60, president Operative Plasterers' International Association of the United States and Canada, was found dead in his room in a hotel in this city. He had been in ill health for several years.

An autopsy revealed that death resulted from natural causes. The body was taken to Arlington Heights, Mass., a suburb of Boston, home of the departed unionist.

He was president of the plasterers' international union for 16 years and a vice president of the Building Trades Department, A. F. of L., since 1924.

The funeral was attended by President Green of the A. F. of L., President McSorley and Secretary-Treasurer Spencer of the Building Trades Department and executives of building trades unions and other A. F. of L. affiliates.

Edward McGivern was a well-known and popular figure in the trade union movement of North America. His long service as president of the plasterers was marked by a strong and active hand in organizing the subway contractors that brought the plasterers to their present high standard as individual workers and as an aggressive unit of organized labor.

He is survived by his widow; a son, 21 years old, and three brothers.

JACOB FISCHER RESIGNS AS BARBERS' SECRETARY

Indianapolis, April 13. — Jacob Fischer has resigned as general secretary-treasurer of the Journeymen Barbers' International Union, according to Journeymen Barber, official magazine of that organization. The resignation was accepted and authorized President Shanessy to conduct the office of secretary-treasurer until the next regular session of the convention, which meets in September.

President Shanessy appointed Organizer Clyde Worthall to serve the Journeyman Barber, a position that is filled by the secretary-treasurer.

CHILDREN ARE IGNORED; OYSTERS ARE PROTECTED

Annapolis, Md., April 13. — The Maryland Legislature ignored organized labor's plea for protection to children and improved compensation legislation, but the lawmakers were vigilant in throwing every protection around oysters, fish, ducks, crabs and muskrats.

SOUTHERN WORKERS AWAKE; "CHEAP LABOR IS PHANTOM"

Elizabethton, Tenn., April 13.—"Your promise of cheap labor is a phantom promise," said William Green, president A. F. of L., in an address here, following the kidnaping of Edward F. McGrady and Alfred F. Hoffman, representatives of the A. F. of L. and the United Textile Workers, by a posse of so-called "respectable citizens."

The huge wooden tabernacle was crowded when the A. F. of L. executive appeared. He was cheered again and again when he declared that organized labor would insist on every right accorded other citizens.

"We regard this kidnaping as an incident of the great struggle of labor for better conditions of living," he said. "The full strength of the 5,000,000 organized workers is back of you. The full strength of the A. F. of L. will be mustered in every proper effort to organize the wage workers of the South.

"Your real estate men have promised industrial freedom for land; they have promised free power; they have promised no taxes. They made the mistake of telling employers that there was cheap labor, simple-minded mountain labor. It was a phantom promise. Your action and your presence here answers that promise."

Quoting from the Bible on "the bringing of abundant life," Mr. Green asked whether the preachers had helped to bring life more abundant and was answered by a chorus of "No." The A. F. of L. official promised to return to the South and continue the efforts begun by trade union organizers.

George L. Berry, president International Printing Pressmen's and Assistants' Union, whose headquarters are at Pressmen's Home, near here, presented the claim that this state has "cheap and docile labor."

Both McGrady and Hoffman are again in Elizabethton. The Governor promised President Green that every citizen would be protected and that the law would take its course against the kidnapers, six of whom have been arrested. The two unionists, however, are being guarded by softspoken mountaineers who have their first glimpse of the stern realities of industrial life.

The nerve of the visiting trade unionists has impressed the mountaineers.

Civil and criminal proceedings will be started against the kidnapers. A boycott has been engaged by the unionists and every effort will be made to teach the kidnapers that "respectable citizens" are not above the law.

Workers charge [illegible] with being inspired by partisan [illegible] with the Bemberg and Glantzstoff [illegible] plants which have been tied up by strikes.

GENERAL ELECTRIC PLANS 5-DAY WEEK

Boston, April 13.—The General Electric Company is considering establishment of the five-day week, according to this statement issued from the company's offices here.

"For several weeks there have been rumors throughout the General Electric Company plants that they will go on a five-day week basis during July and August. The company for some time has been making arrangements to adjust itself to the five-day week, so that customers as well as employes would be benefited. The General Electric Company desires to lead in any advance movement."

Considerations of the five-day week by this anti-union concern follows agitation by organized labor, which has established the five-day week in many localities and is now striving to make it general.

Spokane, Wash., April 13.—Plasterers and painters secured the five-day week and increased wage increases. Rates for plasterers is $12 a day and $9 for painters.

Chattanooga, Tenn., April 13.—Organized painters and sign writers established the five-day week in many localities and is now striving to make it general.

LAWMAKERS IGNORED RADIUM PAINT DANGER

Albany, N. Y., April 13.—In signing a bill which brings four new kinds of diseases contracted by chemicals under the compensation law, Governor Roosevelt denounced the legislature for changing the original bill which increased the number of these diseases to 11.

The original bill was drafted by the State Industrial Survey Commission and was indorsed by the Department of Labor. The four diseases left in occur less frequently and offer a less serious problem to the workers.

EDUCATION BUREAU MEETS; ELECTION PLAN IS CHANGED

Washington, April 13.—It was a case of "off again, on again" with the Federal Bureau of College particians at the annual convention of the Workers Education Bureau in this city at the Brookwoodian Hotel.

Opposition of the delegates caused a constitutional change in the selection of the executive committee. When they walked out—and then changed their minds.

Under the old constitution various groups of delegates caucused to select candidates for the executive committee. Then they would present them on the convention floor. It was shown that one delegate often represented a dozen or more of the city central body and a state federation. These groups often come into the convention pledged to a "solid" vote to enlarge the executive committee and eliminate arbitrary divisions.

Opponents of the plan insisted that student classes and colleges should be represented, but the majority report of the committee, mainly defended by Matthew Woll, chairman, showed that the new system will not prohibit election of representatives of small groups, but that these would no longer represent several bodies.

Heated debate on the change continued for three hours. A. J. Muste, president of Brookwood College, who had credentials from a teachers' union, said he "didn't like" this and other "attempts to kill workers' education." Chairman Woll of the committee blamed Muste for closing the door to the power to adjust the Brookwood controversy.

Had the A. F. of L. representatives on the executive committee of the Workers Education Bureau, who were charged with attempting to stifle Brookwood, wished to do so, said Mr. Woll, they would not have made overtures to Muste for a joint discussion of the tangled situation. This offer was accepted by Mr. Woll.

The opening session of the convention was addressed by President John who declared that organized labor will continue its laudable policy of working out its own problems. The speaker emphasized the value of trade unions as a schoolroom for the workers.

Thomas Burke, secretary-treasurer of the United Association of Plumbers and Steam Fitters, was elected president of the bureau. He succeeds James Maurer. Secretary Spencer Miller, Jr., was re-elected.

TEACHERS CREDIT TRADE UNIONISM WITH RAISING LIVING STANDARDS

By FLORENCE CURTIS HANSON
Editor the American Teacher

The study of social and labor development reveals the striking contrast between wage scales and working conditions of those who are organized and those who are not.

We invite authoritative contradiction of the statement that every salary increase and improvement in teaching conditions is due either directly or indirectly to the work of the Teachers' Unions. No other organization of teachers has done much to justify the material gain of teachers but also for the advancement of liberal education as the Teachers' Unions. They protect the interests of the individual teacher and they primarily and fundamentally stand as the protectors of the ideals of education. The responsibility for social and educational improvement rests with them. Last year, through organization, has raised itself from practical serfdom to a condition in which it has a partial share democratically in the organized production of the world.

There is no substitute for the labor union. What the workers, again including the teachers, do for themselves is much more significant than what is done for them. No welfare scheme imposed from without can do for them what they can do for themselves.

It is puerile to cavil at and hold aloof from the labor movement because of its faults. Whatever it may deserve in the way of criticism can be remedied by its own membership. The interests of the workers can best be protected by their own union.

STEEL TRUST LABOR GET LESS OF OUTPUT

New York, April 13.—Labor's share in the output of the United States Steel Corporation dropped last year, despite much talk of "joint partners in production."

There was a reduction of 3.82 cents in labor's share of every dollar of gross business, compared with the previous year.

This rule did not apply to stockholders. Their share increased from 9.28 cents in 1927 to 11.50 cents in 1928.

Millions of dollars have also been distributed to stockholders in the form of stock dividends. Workers are speeded up and new processes are continually reducing the number employed, while those who remain face lower wages, in proportion to output.

TEMPORARY ENTRY OF ALIENS DENIED

Washington, April 13.—The United States Supreme Court has upheld the Department of Labor regulation that aliens crossing the Canadian boundary to labor or seek employment are not aliens visiting the United States temporarily for business within the meaning of the immigration act of 1924. Citizens of Canada born outside that country are affected. They are now placed in the quota list.

The decision reverses the Circuit Court of Appeals which held that an alien crossing from Canada to the United States daily to labor for hire is not an immigrant but a visitor for business.

Counsel for the aliens contended that the Department of Labor's ruling was in conflict with the Jay treaty of 1794, providing for free and unhampered passing and repassing of British subjects and citizens of the United States into the respective territories and countries of the two parties to the treaty on the North American continent.

The Supreme Court held that the particular provision of the Jay treaty providing for free passage across the Canadian border was abrogated by the War of 1912.

The fact that free passing over the boundary was thereafter, for many years, permitted, did not revive the treaty provision, the court held.

ABERTHAW COMPANY JOINS UNION GROUP

B. & O. $10,000,000 Terminal Will Be Union Built

Washington, April 13.—Officers of the Building Trades Department, A. F. of L., announce that an understanding has been reached with the Aberthaw Construction Company of Boston, which will hereafter operate on a strictly union basis. The company is one of the largest of its kind in this country, and has been outside the union fold for 35 years.

"The Aberthaw company has reached an understanding with the Building Trades Department because skilled building craftsmen are in demand," said Secretary-Treasurer Spencer of the Building Trades Department. The company is a believer of this fact, in an age of increasing competition in our industry. Both parties will profit by this understanding. It is undoubtedly one of the most important in the history of our department."

Cincinnati, April 13.—The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad will build its $10,000,000 terminal in this city under 100 per cent union conditions. This decision was reached following a conference between the railroad representatives and A. F. of L. Vice President James Wilson, President McSorley of the Building Trades Department, A. F. of L., and John Posehl, vice president International Union of Operating Engineers.

CENSOR BILL OPPOSED BY ORGANIZED LABOR

Harrisburg, Pa., April 13.—Delegates to the annual convention of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor adjourned to register their opposition to a censor bill pending in the State Legislature.

The Department of Welfare would be given discretionary power to issue or withhold certificates of registration required for "all printed or illustrated or part printed and part illustrated publications" published, issued or distributed either to subscribers or to the general public, bimonthly or monthly or more than three times a year and less frequently than 52 times a year."

A filing fee of $10 is provided for and $1 for each registration. A fine of $1,000 and a year's imprisonment, or both, is provided for violation of the act. The printing trades lead the fight, although all delegates agree the proposal is vicious.

UNION WAGE SCALE CONTINUED

Philadelphia, April 13. — Mayor Mackey ordered that city contracts hereafter contain a clause that residents of this city shall be employed and that the ordinance of 1901, providing for the payment of the prevailing union scale, shall be enforced.